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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **Number of GEDs Earned by Arkansans Rises in 2003**

The GED Testing Section of the Department of Workforce Education reports a 20 percent increase in the number of Arkansans earning a General Educational Development (GED) credential in calendar year 2003.

To earn a GED, which is the equivalent of a high school diploma, a student must pass a battery of tests in Math, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts/Writing, and Language Arts/Reading.

According to the 2003 report, 6,325 of the 7,579 students tested completed the battery to earn their GED credential. This is an increase of 20 percent over 2002, where 5,049 out of 5,906 testing earned their GED.

The GED provides those who dropped out of high school a second chance to earn their high school diploma, which in turn gives them a better chance of obtaining jobs and/or promotions and the ability to pursue higher education.

In Arkansas, the GED program is offered through the state's 53 adult education centers, funded through the Department of Workforce Education. Accommodations are

**(more)**

## **Arkansas 2003 GED Results - 2**

available for students with physical and/or learning disabilities. The GED tests are also available in Spanish and French.

There is no cost to students for enrolling in the GED program or for taking the tests.

Information on the GED program and the locations of adult education centers is available by calling toll-free at 1-800-GED-6688 or by visiting the Arkansas GED website at

**[www.work-ed.state.ar.us/ged.htm](http://www.work-ed.state.ar.us/ged.htm)**

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